Mr. K. Ayyappan.—It is observed more in its breach than its observance.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—No, they regularly publish, and, as observed by the Diwan once before, these statements published by Heads of Departments are, of late, subjected to a more careful scrutiny in the Secretariat. As the Diwan observed in that connection, "If Hon'ble Members will bring to the notice of Government that a particular Head of Department is not adhering to the policy initiated, Government will be prepared to take action". This is the procedure that is now being followed and, in the opinion of Government, it is found to work satisfactorily for the present. The position may have to be reviewed, if it becomes necessary, in the light of the further experience of the working of the present system.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—Sir, in the light of the remarks made by the Leader of the House I beg to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution as amended by Mr. K. Ayyappan was put and carried.

15. Abolition of Unapproachability and Untouchability in the State.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— "*This Council recommends to the Government to issue a Royal Proclamation abolishing unapproachability and untouchability in the State.*"

*Sir, this was one of the grievances which was placed before this House from its very inception. It was almost an annual occurrence. In some form or other we used to bring this grievance to the notice of the Government. Similar to the resolution that has been moved previously this motion also relates to the disabilities suffered by a large section of His Highness' subjects. There was a very long and serious discussion on this subject and if I remember right the Government even went to the extent of accepting the resolution. I very well remember it was Mr. Narayana Ayyar who occupied the Chair that time. He told us that he would place the matter before His Highness. He assured us also of the prospect of an early Proclamation. Sir, I do not think that I should deal in detail with this barbarous custom which has been a standing disgrace to our country.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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(Hear, hear). This subject also assumed large proportions and occupied the minds of a larger section of the people in the last 20 years. This was agitating the minds of almost all the sections of the public during the last 20 years. Sir, if I remember right, you yourself have been working for the abolition of untouchability in your own way in British India and although we are in no way better and in some ways worse and although we have placed this grievance several times from various platforms and also through this Council, the grievance yet remains unredressed. The Government no doubt do in their own way remove the disabilities that are being suffered by a large section of the public through the Uplift Department. But my submission is that this is not sufficient enough to remove all the grievances. I would even go to the extent of saying that they have not yet given their heart to the persons who are really suffering from this injustice for a very long time. Sir, we are dealing with the self-respect of a large section of the public. In fact we are treading under foot and insulting them every moment we ask our brothers to go away from the streets or not to touch the public well from which some of us can draw water. In fact the Council can bring this in the form of such a resolution. I know that the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas even attempted to bring in a Bill for the removal of untouchability but the Government was not pleased to give him sanction. Therefore the only way in which we can appeal to the Government is to tell them again that public opinion is ripe, that public opinon is with us in this matter. There might be a very very infinitesimally small section of the community against this reform. But we shall not wait until they are also converted. In the larger interests of the State it is time for the Government to interfere and remove it by a Proclamation. I would request them to penalise those who observe untouchability and unapproachability. I asked the Government to consider the question of the removal of slavery at one time. The Government when they felt that slavery was a heinous crime, put their hands straight on it and removed it by an Act. In those days there were people who objected to it. But why did the Government do it? Because Government felt the injustice of it. I would therefore ask the Government to ignore that section of the people and in the interests of the larger public to issue this Proclamation. I would not speak more, because it would be rather an insult to the intelligence of the Members to make a long speech. I am sorry that an amendment has been tabled to my resolution. I hope it will not be moved. I well remember that the Hon'ble Member who has tabled that amendment was

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one of those who supported us in our previous motions. I would therefore request him in all humility not to move that amendment. With these few words I request all the Members to unanimously vote for this resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃട്ടി—സർ, ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. നാനാ ജാതിമതസ്ഥരേയും പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഇവിടെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള സകല മെമ്പർമാരും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ അനുകൂലികളാണെന്നുള്ളതിന്ന് കഴിഞ്ഞ കൌൺസിലിൽ ഇവിടെ നടന്ന ചില സംഭവങ്ങൾ സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പറപ്രൊസഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടായ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ത്തരവിനെ പ്രതിഷേധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നടന്നിരുന്ന യോഗങ്ങളും, അതിനെ തുടന്ന് ഈ കൌൺസിലിലെ മെമ്പർമാർ ഒട്ടാകെ ചേന്ന ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്കു സമർപ്പിച്ചിരുന്ന ഹർജിയും സാധുക്കളായ തീണ്ടൽ ജാതിക്കാർ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടതകളോടുള്ള അനുഭാവത്തെയാണു വെളിവാക്കുന്നത്. ജാതിയെ പുലർത്തേണ്ട ചുമതല ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു തീർച്ചയാണ്. ജാതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഉപദ്രവങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരും ജാതിയെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവരും തമ്മിലാണ് ഇവിടെ വഴക്കുണ്ടാകുന്നത്. അതുവെച്ചു പുലത്തുന്നവർ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ജാതിവേണ്ട, തീണ്ടൽ വേണ്ട എന്നുപറഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു എന്തിനാണ് അതു വച്ചുപുലത്തുവാൻ സാഹസപ്പെടുന്നത് എന്നാണു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നത്. ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ഇതിനെ ഭരണയന്ത്രത്തിനുള്ളിൽ പെടുത്തി ജാതിയെ പാലിക്കുന്നതുകൂടി ഭരണവിഷയമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകരുതെന്നാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുസ്സുകൊണ്ടു പറപ്രൊസഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു തുറന്ന ഹൃദയത്തോടുകൂടി ഒരു പ്രസ്താവമുണ്ടാക്കി പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യുവാൻ അനുവദിച്ച സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിനുതന്നെയും അനുകൂലമായ അഭിപ്രായമേയുള്ളൂവെന്നു തെളിയുന്നുണ്ട്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കും ഇതിൻെറ ഗൌരവം നല്ലപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഈ സംഗതിയുടെ ഗൌരവം തിരുമനസ്സുണർത്തിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുന്ന വിളംബരം നിഷ്പ്രയാസം ഗവൺമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്ന് പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എൻെറ പൂർണ്ണമായ വിശ്വാസം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ എല്ലാ മെമ്പർമാരും അനുകൂലമായി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിന്ന് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമ്മെൻറിനെക്കൊണ്ടു പരിശ്രമിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.— Sir, my amendment is to omit 'and untouchability' from the resolution. My reason for moving this amendment is that it is too much to ask His

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Highness to abolish untouchability. It is rather strange that His Highness should ask everybody to go and touch any other body. I do not think it advisable. There are social lepers as well as physical lepers. And how can His Highness go and touch all of them? On this score alone I have brought this amendment.

Mr. President.— Is there no one to second the amendment?

Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar.— I second it.

The House rose for the day at 4. 55 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

APPENDIX.

Minutes of the Standing Finance Committee Meeting held on 21st Makaram 1111.

Present:—

M. R. Ry. K. Achyuta Menon Avl., Diwan Peishkar.
,, P. V. Subramania Ayyar Avl., Comptroller of Accounts.
,, M. P. Cherian Avl., Joint Secretary to Government.
,, C. R. Iyyunni Avl., M. A., B. L.
,, C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar Avl.
,, K. M. Ibrahim Avl., B. A.

In the absence of the Diwan—President, the Diwan Peishkar took the Chair.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim raised an objection that he has not received seven days' notice of the date of the meeting and that therefore the meeting should be adjourned. The other non - official members also stressed the necessity of at least the full seven days' notice.

Recorded.

The following additional allotments were then considered one by one.

1. Rs. 1,900—under 1-Land Revenue—Law charges.

Passed.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim stressed the necessity for a permanent reduction in the State Land Revenue demand, the existing rates being very high and to encourage the failing industry of agriculture.

Noted.

2. Rs. 376—under 17-Law and Justice—B. 2—District Courts—Establishment.

Passed.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim pointed out the necessity of Government extending the Moratorium until the Land Mortage Bank has effected disbursements to a considerable extent.

Noted.

Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar expressed his disagreement from this view and said he was opposed to any such extension.

Mr. Ibrahim wanted remission for good conduct for prisoners undergoing imprisonment, according to the rules prevalent in British India.

Noted.

3. Rs. 2,850 under 20-Education—2—Collegiate Education—Maintenance of Gas plant.

Passed.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim stressed the necessity of giving half-fee scholarships to students of the backward communities in all cases, and not according to the merits of individual cases, as stated in the recent Government Order.

Noted.

4. Rs. 300 under 20-Education—8-Miscellaneous—Sanskrit College—Contingency.

Passed.

5. Rs. 13,500 under 29-A—Civil Engineering—Buildings—Original.

Passed.

6. Rs. 4,400 under 29-B (3d)—Mattancheri Water Works.

The non-official members of the committee wanted the consideration of the item to be postponed, as they have not had 3 days' notice which they are entitled to under the rules.

Adjourned. The members do not claim fresh notice with respect to this item.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council

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Minutes of the Standing Finance Committee Meeting.

The Standing Finance Committee met again at 1-30 p. m. on Saturday, the 8th February 1936, in the Diwan's Room, Huzur Secretariat.

Present:—

M. R. Ry. K. Achyuta Menon Avl., Diwan Peishkar.
,, M. P. Cherian Avl., Joint Secretary to Government.
,, P. V. Subramania Ayyar Avl., Comptroller of Accounts.
,, C. R. Iyyunni Avl., M. A., B. L., M. L. C.
,, C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar Avl., M. L. C.
,, K. M. Ibrahim Avl., B. A., M. L. C.

The Diwan Peishkar presided.

The following additional allotments were considered:—

1. Rs. 4,400 under 29-B(3d)—Mattancheri Water Works.

Passed.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim raised the question of expediting the water supply to the coastal regions—the hot-bed of filaria, Malaria, etc.—and reminds the Government of the assurance held out by Government in this regard.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni stressed the necessity of an adequate water supply to Trichur Town.

Noted.

Mr. Ibrahim desired that Heads of Departments also should be present at the discussion of the Standing Finance Committee. He also stressed the necessity of repairing a leakage to the water-pipe along the bridge at Alwaye.

2. Rs. 250 under 17-Law and Justice B. 2—District Courts—Miscellaneous.

Passed.

Mr. Ibrahim said for this item three days' notice was not given. The other members did not take objection on this ground. Mr. Iyyunni said that as a matter of policy action for political offences should be resorted to only in clear cases. Mr. Ibrahim said that "as far as possible counter-propaganda should be made in the place of coercive steps."

Noted.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

JUN 24 1936
TO THE COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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